

## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2

V.1

-you've probably heard the saying "when you see the word therefore, find out what it's there for"

-Peter is transitioning from what he just finished saying to how we should apply this to our lives

-At the end of ch.1. Peter was saying that we should love one another and that our lives on earth are extremely short and that only the Word of the Lord endures forever

-because of that we should put aside all slander, deceit, etc.

-what believers should not do:

-malice: evil or wickedness

-deceit: to trick (like a decoy)

-hypocrisy: acting under a feigned part

-envy: ill will, spite, jealousy

-slander: defamation, backbiting, evil speaking

V.2-3

-I believe this is a big problem in the church today

-people don't have a longing for the pure Word

-today, many people and denominations take a few verses and build a theme out of that

-things like wealth healing or miracles or speaking in tongues

-these are all very important parts of the Christian faith, but should not be the central focus of our doctrine

-we need the pure Word which includes the topics of hell, judgment, repentance, and discipline

**Act 20:26** Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the blood of all *men*.

**Act 20:27** For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

-a pastor does a great disservice to his congregation if he doesn't preach through the whole bible

-If the bible isn't preached through consistently, than the pastor will be left to talk try to come up with topics on his own every Sunday

-and whether it is deliberate or not, many topics will not get preached on very often

-then naturally the pastor will build his sermons around things going on in his life or that he is struggling with.

-but when you preach and teach through the whole bible, you are forced to deal with every topic

#### V.4-5

-the church is not made up of different denominations, big buildings and t.v. evangelists

-the church is made up of every genuine believer in the world

-just like a building is made up of huge building is made up of hundreds of thousands of bricks or rocks, the church is made of millions of believers or "living stones" with Jesus being the Chief Cornerstone

-just like a building, without all the stones, the church is incomplete without all its members

-**1Co 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

#### V.6

-this is another prophecy of the coming Christ prophesied through Isaiah

-it's not surprising that Peter remembers this

-he had a conversation with Jesus about this very thing

**Mat 16:13** Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**"

**Mat 16:14** And they said, "Some *say* John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

**Mat 16:15** He \*said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**"

**Mat 16:16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

**Mat 16:17** And Jesus said to him, "**Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**"

**Mat 16:18** "**I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.**"

-upon which rock?

-the solid foundation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God

-we will not be disappointed

**1Co 2:9** but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

#### V.7-8

-but of course, these promises are only for those who believe

-but for those who don't believe, they are appointed doom

-and to unbelievers, Jesus is a stumbling block and a rock of offense

-ever noticed how the world system doesn't necessarily have a problem with "God"?

-the world seems to be ok with Allah, Buddha, or worshipping Mother Nature

- Its only when you mention the name Jesus that people get offended  
-this should be one of the most convincing proofs that Jesus is the one true God

-Jesus says:

**Mat 21:44** "And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."

-we need to come broken before the Lord and receive His forgiveness  
-we don't want to reject it and wind up having his judgment fall on us  
**Heb 10:31** It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

V.9

-this is a powerful verse

-when Peter wrote this letter, he was originally writing to Jewish believers, but also to Christians everywhere

-so if you are a believer, this verse applies to you

-Listen how he describes you:

-chosen race

-royal priesthood

-holy nation

-people for God's own possession

-I was discussing the topic of the end of the world with someone one day, and the topic of the antichrist came up

-they suggested that a certain person might be the antichrist himself

-I disagreed and referenced:

**Mat 24:24** "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect."

-they said "so you consider yourself one of the elect???"

-I said absolutely! And this verse in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter is why

-even though we are saved and are a people for God's own possession, we still have a job to do

-we are to proclaim the Excellencies of God to those who don't know Him

-if all God wanted from us was to accept His forgiveness, He would take our life the moment we got saved

-but He doesn't

-He leaves us here in this world to proclaim His goodness and recruit more people to add to His kingdom

#### V.10

-just like the people who became the nation Israel, we have become the body of believers

-the Jewish people did nothing to earn the right to be God's people

-and we did nothing to earn God's forgiveness

-God did it all. All we did was respond to what He did

#### V.11

-this world is not our home

-this is something that is hard for most people to grasp

-this world is all we have ever known so we tend to think that this is the extent of our existence

-we accumulate material possessions and make ourselves as comfortable as we can thinking that this is what life is about

-but this life is so temporary

-before you know it, you will be old or on your death bed

-if you've ever had kids and watched the years fly by quickly, you know what I mean

-Peter makes it clear that struggling against the lust of the flesh is something we will face all our lives

-even Paul struggled with this same issue:

**Rom 7:19** For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

**Rom 7:20** But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

-being a Christian doesn't make you immune from the desires of the flesh

#### V.12

-the best way to evangelize is probably with words, but sometimes your behavior speaks louder than your words

-when you are in a group of non-believers, they should be able to see a difference in you without you ever opening your mouth

-maybe it's time we examine our own lives

-do we only act like Christians on Sunday?

-how do you act during the week?

-how do you run your business?

-is your book keeping honest or is it manipulated a bit to avoid paying more taxes?

-do you treat your employees fairly?

-are all your business dealings fair and honest or are you just in it to make as much as possible and are willing to overlook some moral obstacles?

-if you are an employee, you may be the only believer there

-do you stand up for what's right when all the other employees don't?

-when they all leave work early or slack off when the boss is out of town, do you go along with it?

-believe it or not, the world is watching

-and they will do whatever they can to discredit your faith

-how can you effectively witness to someone when he has seen you do the same dishonest stuff he's been doing?

V.13-15

-the first word (submit) is hard for many of us

-we live in a society that tells us "do it your way" or "don't let anyone tell you what to do"

-there are even some believers who think that government regulations don't apply to them

-if they think the tax code isn't biblical, they don't pay their taxes or will manipulate the system so they don't have to pay

-regardless if we agree with government rules or not, we must obey them unless they are in complete contradiction to living a Christian life

-if the law of the land says that everyone must buy health insurance, you may not like it or agree with it, but you must submit to it because it is the law of our government

--if the law says everyone is to set aside every Thursday to worship the president, that would contradict God's commandment

-like Peter said in the book of Acts:

**Act 5:27** When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them,

**Act 5:28** saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

**Act 5:29** But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

-when nonbelievers see Christians rebelling against authority, it damages their witness

## V.16

-I love this verse!

-we are to act as free men, not be burdened down with spiritual rules

-this is the difference between religion and Christianity

-virtually all other religions require believers to “do” or “not do” certain things to find favor with god

-whether it is worshipping on a certain day, not eating certain foods, only making music with certain instruments, we should not let people bind us with those things

**Col 2:16** Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day--

**Col 2:17** things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

-but he reminds us that our freedom isn't a license to sin

-there are people who think that once they are saved, they can do what they want and live however they want without fear of winding up in hell

-unfortunately that's just not the case

-Jesus made it very clear in the parable of the wicked servant

**Luk 12:42** And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?"

**Luk 12:43** "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

**Luk 12:44** "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

**Luk 12:45** "But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, *both* men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk;

**Luk 12:46** the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

## V.17

-most of the problems in society today could be solved if we would all follow these four simple steps

-“Honor all people” regardless if they are your friends, family or complete strangers, if we all treat each other with respect, that would eliminate most violent crimes and disputes

-“love the brotherhood” this is something that is missing in many churches and families today

-Chuck Swindoll calls it “erosion” or “entropy”. This is a law that says that all things naturally tend to go from a state of good to poor.

-Many Christians, especially in church, don't take time to love one another

-they smile and shake hands during church and make pleasant small talk but they really don't want to let anyone get too close or personal

-because if we get close and personal with others, we realize that they have problems

-and problems require effort and time on our part to work through

- most of us would just as soon not get involved and pretend everything is

OK

-I think one of the main reasons people don't love like they should anymore is because we are too busy

-we live in a society where we rush from one thing to the next and never seem to get caught up

-we have been conditioned to believe that if we get off work early or if we have free time that we are lazy

-so we work 12 hours a day and make sure the kids are in every activity possible

-then we run ourselves ragged just trying to keep up with these crazy schedules we have made for ourselves

-there is even a danger of getting over involved in church

-we start out on one committee with good intentions but then keep getting more and more involved

-we tell ourselves that since we are so involved in church, we must be doing the will of God

-meanwhile, we are attending 4 meetings a week and neglecting our family and ignoring the people around us who God really wants us to minister to

**Psa 46:10** "Be still and know that I am God

-“Fear God”

-**Psa 111:10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*; His praise endures forever.

-a healthy fear of the Lord is crucial

-this is not the type of fear that makes us afraid of punishment every time we do something wrong, but a fear of knowing that

**Psa 24:1** The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

-this is His creation and it operates under His rules whether we like it or not

-The view many people have of God today is very shallow

-I believe this goes back to the home and family structure

-our view of God is usually formed by the view we have of our own fathers

-if our father was mean and strict, then we assume that God is that way as

well

-if our father wasn't around or didn't have time for us then we assume that God doesn't have time for us or care about our lives

-the latest trend in the way families operate today is that dads no longer want to be the authoritarian figure in the home but try to be their kids best friend

-this may seem like the cool, hip thing to do but is very damaging to children

-if the father doesn't discipline his children, they will have no respect or fear of him (fear of consequences when you disobey)

-now these kids see God the same way they see their dad and what do you wind up with?

-a generation of people who don't fear God

-a church and a culture who has made God into their casual friend instead of their God

-a group of people who has no fear of consequences for doing whatever they want to do

-their dad never punished or disciplined them, why would they think that God would do that either?

-we are to have a healthy fear of God

**Luk 12:5 "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"**

-“honor the king”

-obviously we don't have a king in our country but the premise is still the same

-honor the one in authority (in our case, it's a president)

-This is a hard one to swallow because we are such a politically divided country

-we are republican and democrat, liberal and conservative

-it doesn't say we are to agree with the views of the one in authority, but we are to honor the position of authority

**Rom 13:1** Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God

-God has set up lines of authority in every institution on earth,

-without that, the world would be in Chaos

V.18-19

-this is not the type of scripture many people use as memory verses

-first, we see the word “servant” and associate it with slavery



-being a servant in the time of Christ was not the same as being a slave in the US before the Civil war.

-people had servants for different reasons

-couldn't pay off a debt they owed

-someone would pay their debt in trade for them becoming their servant

-poverty also resulted in becoming a servant

-parents or widows would sell a child because they were poor

-the servants were not necessarily treated poorly because the masters had money invested in them

-but either way, we don't feel like we need to be submissive to anyone

-we want to be independent, free and able to do what we want to do

-we have the idea that no one should be able to tell us what to do

-This goes back to the authority structure God has set up

-if we don't learn to function under authority, we won't understand how to be submissive to God

-when our kids come home from school and tell us that the teachers made them do stuff they didn't want to do, we tell them just to do it because that is how life will be in the workplace and other areas of life

-the church seems to have bought into the idea that we need to keep teaching people to be leaders

-everything is marketed toward leadership and how to become a better church leader

-conferences are put on and books are written to teach people how to be better leaders

-that is the world's way of doing business

-the church needs to teach people how to become followers

-but teaching about following or serving will never draw a crowd or sell books because everyone wants to be the leader

-Jesus said "follow Me and I will make you fishers of men"

-The word "servant" is used three times more than the word "master"

V.20

-being punished for doing something wrong is nothing to brag about

-but being punished for something like standing for your faith is a big deal to God

-this is what happened to Peter and the disciples after preaching about Christ:

-**Act 5:40** They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them.

**Act 5:41** So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name.

V.21-22

-for what purpose?

-to endure sufferings for Christ

-this isn't to say that you will be mocked and ridiculed everyday or that you will be called on to give your life for his sake

-but living a genuine Christian life will put you at odds with the world

**2Ti 3:12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

-Jesus said:

**Joh 15:20** "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

-if your life fits seamlessly into the world system and you never cause any friction because of what you believe, you may need to examine the depth of your faith

-saying that Jesus committed no sin should be a simple statement to accept

-but probably about 40 percent of adult Christians don't believe He was completely sinless

-this is a huge problem

-if Jesus wasn't sinless that means the bible is wrong

-If He wasn't sinless that means He wasn't the perfect sacrifice for our sins

-and if He wasn't the perfect sacrifice, we are still in our sins and will go to hell

-believing that Jesus lived a sinless life is a must if you are going to put your faith in Him as your savior

V.23

-Christ is our example

-our natural response when we are hurt or mistreated is to retaliate

-people who are hurt or afraid are usually the ones who hurt other people

- the people who were responsible for the death of Jesus were afraid of Him
- He was a threat to their power and control so they wanted Him eliminated
- but we should learn from Jesus
- instead of being mad at them, He simply asked the Father to forgive them
- if we don't learn to forgive, we will carry around so much venom inside until we are completely bitter and angry
- if we don't choose to forgive, we give others a lot of control over our lives -
- even if the one who offends us doesn't ask for forgiveness, we should do it anyway.
- it is not our job to take revenge

**Rom 12:19** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

## V.24

- Christ was the perfect sacrifice that was pictured so often in the Old Testament
- the spotless Passover lamb and all the animal sacrifices in the ceremonies of the law were just a picture type of what He would do at the cross
- this is why animal sacrifices came to an end; the perfect sacrifice had been offered

**1Pe 3:18** For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

- although we have died to sin through His sacrifice, that doesn't mean we won't sin any more

**Rom 7:15** For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

**Rom 7:16** But if I do the very thing I do not want *to do*, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that the Law is good.

**Rom 7:17** So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

- by His stripe we are healed....
- this verse has been taken out of context by many people and groups of believers
- I believe fully that Jesus has the power to heal miraculously when He chooses to
- but there are other things to consider with this verse
- as long as we live in this body in this world, we are going to get sick
- whether you are the most committed follower of Christ or living completely in the flesh, it's going to happen
- Even though sometimes our sinful lifestyles can lead to sickness, it is not the only cause

-some people say that if you have any type of illness or even financial problems, it stems from unconfessed sin in your life or a lack of faith

-this is absolutely not true

-I know people who have a great passion for the Lord and struggle with chronic illness and pain

-I also know people that live completely in the flesh and abuse their bodies with chemicals and live very immoral lives who seem to never get sick

-the truth is that illness is the result of living in a fallen world

-when Adam and Eve chose to obey Satan rather than God, a curse was placed on the earth

-we went from Utopia in the garden of Eden with perfect weather and unity of all the species to having to deal with drought and weeds and all the other problems we see in the world today

**Rom 8:22** For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

-but we are healed by His stripes

-but the ultimate healing is the healing of our souls for eternity

-this verse was not meant to be quoted over every sniffle and toothache that we get

V.25

-sheep stray from the shepherd often

-and sometimes if they continue to stray the shepherd has to bring a little pain into their lives to keep them from straying again

-he may pop them with his staff or maybe even give them a sore leg so they can't leave again

-he does this because he knows that there is much more danger away from the flock than with the shepherd

-sometimes God needs to bring a little pain into our lives to bring us back closer to Him again

-not because He is mean or doesn't want us to have fun, but because He loves us and doesn't want to see us get hurt